



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics

SEP 13 72

Dear Ed--

Tatum

I would like to be able to enlarge on this letter to the editor: did "geneticists really obstruct the early development of molecular biology" (Was it really such a disaster that Mirsky kept us (me?) looking for that last molecule of protein in pneumococcal DNA?) Judging from the actual speed of further discovery it is hard to make that kind of a case.

What I wonder is whether you still have correspondence involving Francis or myself in the interval 1944-45 concerning either

perceptions about Avery, or in particular the expts. that Ryan and I did try on transforming *Neurospora*, or

early glimmers about looking for recombination in bacteria.

There are not many such papers still to be found, and I want to try to gather up what may still be left. I do enclose a shaky carbon copy of a letter from me to you-- do you still have the original? or a copy of your reply?

I'm sorry we did not have a bit more time together when I was in N.Y. in the spring; and I hope you will have been feeling fitter than you did just then.

All the best, as ever,

John

No